

2025

# CLARENCE DAY SCHOLARS

A PLACE LIKE NO OTHER



Rhodes College

[rhodes.edu/dayscholar](https://rhodes.edu/dayscholar)

*"Rhodes' core values align with my passion for community service and making a difference."*

**America Centeno-Arroyo '28**

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*"Being selected as a Day Scholar is an incredible honor. This experience has opened doors I never imagined."*

**John Barnett '27**

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*"Thank you, Day Foundation, for your continued support. My entire college experience would not have been possible without this scholarship."*

**Jasmine Jeffries '26**

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*"I hope to honor your generosity by striving for excellence and making a meaningful impact in the future. Thank you for believing in me."*

**Ismail Malik '26**

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*"I am forever grateful for the opportunity and for the person I have become because of this experience."*

**Michael Bell '25**

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*"I have been able to develop myself socially, professionally, and as a citizen of Memphis through the Day Scholar program."*

**Vaidehi Bhatara '25**



*The Day Foundation was established by Memphis businessman and philanthropist Clarence Day '52, who passed away in 2009.*

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The Clarence Day Scholarship Program, a partnership between Rhodes College and the Day Foundation, each year awards 10 local students with 100% of their financial need for four years.

Clarence Day Scholars also receive support for a "learning outside the classroom" experience in Memphis in the form of an internship or service or research project developed by the student.

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# CLARENCE DAY SCHOLAR AWARD RECIPIENTS AND HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTIONS

## Abe Fortas Award for Excellence in Legal Studies

Elena Mosby '15

## Allen Tate Creative Writing Award - Poetry

Janay Kelley '24  
McKendree T. Walker '19

## Anne Howard Bailey Prize for Creative Writing

Janay Kelley '24

## Award for Excellence in Urban Studies

Tony Eskridge '20  
Aylen C. Mercado '19

## Award for Latin American and Latinx Studies

Aylen C. Mercado '19

## Award for Excellence in Biology

Layla E. Jubrial-Jaber '19

## Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Award for Outstanding Research

Ramiz Somjee '21

## Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Award for Outstanding Senior

Ramiz Somjee '21

## Eta Sigma Phi: National Honor Society for Classical Studies

Ramiz Somjee '21  
Bilal Siddiq '20  
Walker Lee '19  
Iqra Siddiq '18

## Gender and Sexuality Studies Award for Academic Achievement

Patrick Grooms '24

## International Studies

### Bobby Doughtie Memorial Award

Mariam Khayata '22

### Jack U. Russell Award for Outstanding Work in First-Year Computer Science

Victor Lopez Perez '27

### Joye Fourmy Cobb Romeiser Award in Education

Cinthiya Bolanos Zamora '20

### Louise & Ward Archer, Sr. Award for Creativity

Janay Kelley '24

### Mac Armour Physics Fellow

Hugh Ferguson '26

### Mollie Royall McCord Prize in Bible

Patrick Grooms '24

### Mortar Board National College Honor Society

Meher Boghani '24  
Jackson Hendrix '24  
Erin Parker '24

### Omicron Delta Kappa

Chloe Moore '16  
Katelyn Dagen '15

### Phi Beta Kappa

Meher Boghani '24  
Mariam Khayata '22  
Grant Hill '21  
Ramiz Somjee '21  
Bilal Siddiq '20  
Layla E. Jubrial-Jaber '19  
Maggie Bradley '18  
Katelyn Dagen '15  
Eliza Hendrix '15

## First Year Seidman Award in Political Science

Patrick Grooms '24

## Emerson National Hunger Fellowship

Tony Eskridge '20  
Rho Lambda: Leadership  
Recognition Society  
Raven Burks '18, Secretary  
Rhodes Hall of Fame  
Mariam Khayata '22  
Mary Thomas '21  
Adam Cruthirds '20  
Tony Eskridge '20  
Zaria Jones '19  
Aylen Mercado '15

## Sigma Tau Delta: International English Honor Society

Emily Faber '19  
Maggie Bradley '18  
Kenneth Piper '17  
Elizabeth Shearon '17

## ADDITIONAL ACCOLADES

### 2017 Male Scholar Athlete of the Year for Indoor Track & Field

Renn Eason '18

### Congressional Hunger Center's Rising Star Award

Tony Eskridge '20

### Curator, "Threaded Legacies" Exhibition, Memphis Cossitt Library

Janay Kelley '24

### Male RA of the Year

Reggie Eskridge '18

## Memphis Area Collegiate Geospatial Showcase

Parth Sinojia '25, first place

## Americans for the Arts NABE Scholarship to Encourage the Integration of the Arts and Economics

Mary Phan '18

## Sargent Shriver Youth Warriors Against Poverty Leadership Award *presented by the Marguerite Casey Foundation*

Iris Mercado '15

## Rhodes Royalty

Aylen Mercado '19  
Raven Burks '18  
Katelyn Dagen '15

## Rhodes Scholar

Mariam Khayata '22

## Student Government

John Barnett '27,  
*Senate member and Community Standards  
Council member*

Tony Eskridge '20, *President*

Callie Hollis '25, *Community Standards Council President*

Colin McCown '25, *Honor Council President*

Hoang-Vy Tran '25, *Allocations Commissioner*

## UTHSC Student Orthopedic Association

Renn Eason '18, *President*

## Memphis Flyer's 20<30 Class of 2025

Hugh Ferguson '27



**Rhodes College**

# CLARENCE DAY SCHOLARS CLASS OF 2028



## Noah Campbell

Lausanne Collegiate School

**Major: Undecided**

### Fall 2024 Courses

First Year Experience Seminar  
Introduction to Economics  
Financial Accounting  
Introduction to International Relations  
The Bible: Texts and Contexts

In his Day Scholar application, Noah made an intuitive yet startling connection. For two years, he worked as a home health nurse assistant for a person who cannot communicate, eat, or move independently, spending as many as 19 hours per week with him. Noah wrote about the unwavering dedication of this man's family to his well-being and how it impacted him. "This experience has deeply ingrained in me the values of compassion and resilience, mirroring the community-centric mindset of the Clarence Day Scholar program at Rhodes," he said. "As a scholar, my goal will be to extend the compassion and support I've practiced as a home health aide into broader community initiatives, looking at economic inequalities and supporting families navigating similar challenges."

### Why did you choose Rhodes?

*For me, it was important to remain near home. My high school has a great relationship with Rhodes, and it is a very high-ranking school made possible for me financially only through the Clarence Day scholarship.*

### How do you think the Day Scholars Program will enhance your Rhodes experience?

*I hope it will provide connections to other Rhodes students and faculty, to support social and professional relationships with them.*



## America

## Centeno-Arroyo

Collegiate School of Memphis

**Major: Undecided**

### Fall 2024 Courses

First Year Experience Seminar  
Search: Values in History and Religion  
Sculpture  
Selected Topics in History  
Introduction to Health Equity

Based on America's Day Scholar application, one could certainly see her working with a parks department or a park conservancy via an internship or maybe even as a career. She wrote about a desire to beautify the city and create safe "third spaces" for the community to utilize in its free time. What better way to combine those two goals than by focusing her work on parks? However, don't think that America's ambitions are singular. She was the president of Collegiate School of Memphis' National Art Honor Society and supplied the Admission team with a beautiful and thought-provoking portfolio of her artwork. One piece in particular, *freeconomy*, takes a colorful yet caustic approach, tackling themes of identity, agency, and socioeconomic struggle.

### Why did you choose Rhodes?

*Rhodes' core values align with my passion for community service and making a difference.*

### Describe any past community service or volunteer efforts:

*In the past, I've worked with Contemporary Arts Memphis on various events held at the Brooks Museum.*



## Gabriel Kebede

White Station High School

**Major: Undecided**

### Fall 2024 Courses

First Year Experience Seminar  
First Year Writing Seminar  
The Bible: Texts and Contexts  
Intermediate Spanish  
Computer Science Programming and Fundamentals  
Calculus with Business Applications

Gabriel is a strong writer. This came across in his short answer responses to Day Scholarship prompts, but most empathically in his essay. Gabriel wrote thoughtfully about a summer job he held at his parents' gas station, providing a subtextual framework based on his parents' immigration and the attainment (and weight of those generational expectations on him) of the American Dream. Within that framework, he exhibited a flair for writing vivid vignettes, each showing a key professional or life lesson he learned from the experiences. You understand the warm dynamic between Gabriel and his parents as he reflected upon the delicate and sometimes messy interplay between parental guidance and self-actualization. At the writing's conclusion, Gabriel makes the reader feel a connection to him. That said, Gabriel seems intent on pursuing a career in tech and is excited to join Rhodes' Computer Science department. Additionally, he plans to try out for the orchestra or jazz band as a trumpeter.

### Why did you choose Rhodes?

*The close connections that are fostered here really resonated with me. I appreciate the culture of service here, and I wanted to be a part of such a great community.*

### Describe any past community service or volunteer efforts:

*I've done a lot of food drives and have assisted with food insecurity through churches and independent food banks. The big impact of such a relatively easy task inspires me to be as active as I can in my community.*



## Catherine Kellett

White Station High School

**Major: Undecided**

### Fall 2024 Courses

First Year Experience Seminar  
The Bible: Texts and Contexts  
Foundations of Chemistry  
Foundations of Chemistry Lab  
Introduction to Comparative Politics  
Piano  
Painting

Catherine already makes a difference in Memphis - just look at the listed activities in her Common Application: President of her high school's Humane Society Club, an advisory committee member for a Pink Palace exhibit, a part-time job at Curbside Casseroles, a camp counselor at a local summer day camp, founder of her own car detailing business, an exhibitor at the Brooks Museum and Memphis International Airport, and a campaign advisor for a city council candidate. Not only is she busy but note the range of experiences she's had and institutions she's touched. Her potential as a Day Scholar appears boundless, and though she wrote in her Day Scholar application that she wants to focus on healthcare and education access, one would not be surprised to see her final Day Scholar project take almost any form.

### Why did you choose Rhodes?

*I chose Rhodes for both its numerous academic and social opportunities on campus and because of its location in the culture-rich city of Memphis.*

### How do you think the Day Scholars Program will enhance your Rhodes experience?

*I look forward to the sense of community provided by the Clarence Day scholarship and am impressed by the compassion-driven nature of the program.*

# CLARENCE DAY SCHOLARS CLASS OF 2028



## Karamia Quiriconi

Lausanne Collegiate School

**Major: Undecided**

### Fall 2024 Courses

First Year Experience Seminar  
Introduction to Anthropology  
Introduction to Economics  
Elementary Spanish  
Search: Values in History and Religion

Karamia exemplifies the liberal arts. She honed her leadership skills at Lausanne as the Founder/President of the GSA; as head cartoonist for the school paper; as a writer, director, and performer for the school's theater department; and as a member of the rock-climbing team. She wrote eloquently in her application about her leadership of the GSA and how she has, through the club, been able to "interact at a deeper level with Memphis." She also mused that she might be interested in pursuing a Day Scholar project focused on income inequality in our communities. When she's not spending her time pursuing her well-rounded slate of activities, she's a world championship handler for diving dogs and earned the rank of top handler in her division in 2021.

### Why did you choose Rhodes?

*The financial assistance the Clarence Day scholarship provides is a huge help to my family. Another bonus is the gorgeous campus and the incredible professors I have interacted with so far!*

### Describe any past community service or volunteer efforts:

*I fostered four dogs long-term during high school. The most recent foster was from the Memphis Humane Society, and the others were from an Oxford-based rescue. I think these experiences have strengthened my empathy.*



## Alan Rojas Torres

Overton High School

**Major: Undecided**

### Fall 2024 Courses

First Year Experience Seminar  
First Year Writing Seminar  
Cultural Knowledge I  
Introductory Physics for the Physical Sciences I  
Introductory Physics Lab I  
Differential Calculus

Though he described himself as an introvert in his Day Scholar application, Alan stands out to those with a watchful eye. Not only did he make very positive impressions in his Day Scholar interview with both current Day Scholars and members of the Day committee, but he also left a positive mark on his high school counselor as well. "During my relationship with Alan, I have experienced an individual who shows up earlier than asked, works hard, and carries themselves in a polite, respectable manner," she said. "In addition, Alan is exceptionally gifted at making others feel comfortable and always maintaining a positive attitude." The Day Foundation can certainly note that these are ideal qualities for recipients of the scholarship. Lastly, Alan has advocated for himself dutifully and graciously, working above and beyond what is normal with the Rhodes Admission team to make this his home for the next four years.

### Why did you choose Rhodes?

*Rhodes had a welcoming energy radiating from every student and faculty member I met. The Admission advisors showed me there are countless opportunities to explore new activities and interests.*

### How do you think the Day Scholars Program will enhance your Rhodes experience?

*Being part of a community-centered program will allow me to meet new people and be in a position to actively help other students.*



## Alina Sikander

Collierville High School

**Major: Undecided**

### Fall 2024 Courses

First Year Experience Seminar  
Search: Values in History and Religion  
Biology I  
Biology I Lab  
Research in Biology  
Trial Procedure  
Introduction to Psychological Science  
Introduction to Urban Studies

Alina has an observational eye for spotting movements that could use a boost. She shadowed physicians at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, and based on her experiences there, joined the nonprofit Hands to Hearts, helping to raise more than \$20,000 for children with heart conditions. She founded the Special Needs and Betterment Resources organization to support families with neurodivergent children. And she has taken it upon herself to improve technology access and opportunities in Memphis through the national Technology Student Association. In her Day Scholar application, she said she hopes to tackle the challenges of food insecurity through the Day Scholar program, and eventually, she wants to make a difference on a global scale. "While my long-term goal is to participate in Engineers Without Borders and help communities worldwide," she said, "I believe in starting with my own community of Memphis."

### Why did you choose Rhodes?

*When applying to college, my requirements included small class size, research opportunities, diversity, and most importantly, opportunities to serve. Once I visited campus and spoke to students here, I knew I wanted to attend.*

### How do you think the Day Scholars Program will enhance your Rhodes experience?

*I hope that the Clarence Day scholarship will provide me an outlet to do more good and really home in on things I'm passionate about, such as advocating for health care in marginalized communities, food insecurity, and more. I am genuinely excited to be in the company of nine other scholars who enjoy giving back to the community as much as I do.*



## Hunter Tice

Christian Brothers High School

**Major: Undecided**

### Fall 2024 Courses

First Year Experience Seminar  
First Year Writing Seminar  
Elementary Chinese  
The Bible: Texts and Contexts  
Introduction to Urban Studies  
Clarinet  
Rhodes Orchestra

Hunter went out of his way to advocate for himself to be a Day Scholar. While working with the Rhodes Admission team, he made it clear that he applied for the scholarship, not for the money, but because he wants to make an impact in Memphis, giving back to the city that has given him so much. He feels fortunate to have received his education at Christian Brothers High School where he was President of Facing History and Ourselves, President of the Lasallian Youth service organization, President of the Allies Club, Section Leader of the Band, and captain of the Knowledge Bowl team. In his Day Scholar application, he wrote of his work with Facing History and how he made his peers aware of issues such as stereotyping, conflict, and identity. "One of my most memorable experiences was when I had my friend Misha, who fled Ukraine, speak to my classmates," he said, emphasizing his desire to share different perspectives with his community.

### Why did you choose Rhodes?

*I chose Rhodes because I felt that its connection with the Memphis community was unmatched.*

### Describe any past community service or volunteer efforts:

*In high school, I worked with organizations such as Catholic Charities and Facing History in order to work with people whom I felt close to.*

# CLARENCE DAY SCHOLARS CLASS OF 2028



## Yash Vyavahare

Collierville High School

**Major: Undecided**

### Fall 2024 Courses

First Year Experience Seminar  
Search: Values in History and Religion  
Introduction to Psychological Science  
Computer Science Programming and Fundamentals  
Foundations of Chemistry  
Foundations of Chemistry Lab  
Research in Biology

When Yash co-founded the Collierville High School Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Club, he had a clear focus in mind. Shocked and dismayed by news coverage of a carcinogenic gas, ethylene oxide (EtO), which is linked to higher cases of cancer in the South Memphis neighborhoods where it was released, Yash decided to put his analytical brain to work. He and his collaborators spent hours researching EtO and reading testimonials from South Memphis residents affected by the gas. They conceptualized a machine that would remove EtO by releasing it into the atmosphere and, as a result of their hard work, became state finalists for their design. Yash says that he would like to work with the Biology and Physics departments at Rhodes to test the viability of such a machine in hopes of creating an effective solution.

### Why did you choose Rhodes?

*I intend to follow a pre-med track, and Rhodes offers a great medical pipeline, as well as general flexibility with the curriculum.*

### How do you think the Day Scholars Program will enhance your Rhodes experience?

*I think that the Clarence Day scholarship will lend itself to community service based on science and medicine, which are my greatest interests.*



## J'Oules Williams

Hutchison School

**Major: Undecided**

### Fall 2024 Courses

First Year Experience Seminar  
First Year Writing Seminar  
Cultural Knowledge I  
United States Politics  
Latin American and Latinx Studies

J'oules has made an impact in many areas in Memphis already. She's involved with Bridge Builders, Shelby County Youth Court, New Hope Christian Academy's urban farm, the Frayser Community Parent Teacher Student Association, and Tennessee Girls State. She also has a part-time job. She wrote in her Day Scholar application that she'd like to synthesize these experiences and the skills she gained from them to work in the law, specifically to teach governmental systems to communities where lack of knowledge of those systems serves as a barrier for advancement. Her passions include history and politics, so one could certainly see her dedicating her studies at Rhodes to either (or both!) of those arenas at Rhodes.

### Why did you choose Rhodes?

*I appreciate my city and want to better it. The Clarence Day Scholars Program motivated me to stay in-town, and all that Rhodes has to offer is amazing!*

### Describe any past community service or volunteer efforts:

*I volunteer with Shelby County Youth Court as a defensive/prosecuting attorney, juror, or bailiff and with BRIDGES, where I create events for outreach and recruitment.*

# CLARENCE DAY SCHOLARS CLASS OF 2027



## Myles "Zel" Allen

The Soulsville Charter School

**Major: Undecided**

### Fall 2024 Courses

Search: Values in History and Religion  
Special Topics, America in Studio Art  
Elementary French  
Gender and Power in Latin America  
Music and Community in Memphis  
Rhodes Archipelago Ensemble

### What has been your favorite class?

*My favorite class so far has been Sculpture because it challenged my creativity. I was surprised by its difficulty.*

*"I'm very grateful to be a Day Scholar. The program has helped me pursue my academic goals, as well as become more involved with other Rhodes students and the Memphis community. Thank you so much for this opportunity."*



## John Barnett

Christian Brothers High School

**Major: Undecided**

### Fall 2024 Courses

Introductory Seminar in History  
Introduction to Entrepreneurship  
Financial Accounting  
Intermediate Spanish  
Advanced Jazz/Contemporary Dance  
Voice

### What has been your favorite class?

*My favorite class, taught by professor, Dr. Shatavia Wynn, is The Bible and Popular Culture. Dr. Wynn cares about her students inside and outside of the classroom. Her courses inspire deep, critical thinking about themes such as race, love, womanhood, faith and popular culture. I appreciate her encouragement of creativity, allowing her students to take creative reins when writing papers and creating projects.*

*"I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to grow and explore my passions at Rhodes College. Being selected as a Day Scholar is an incredible honor. This experience has opened doors I never imagined, and I am eager to continue building my future on the strong foundation provided by the Day Foundation. Thank you for belief in my potential."*



## Hugh Ferguson

White Station High School

**Major: Undecided**

### Fall 2024 Courses

Discrete Mathematical Modeling with Biological Applications  
Foundations of Chemistry  
Foundations of Chemistry Lab  
Differential Equations  
Research in Physics  
Methods and Theories of the Study of Religion

### What is the focus of your Day Scholar project?

*I held a voter registration drive in September, where I assisted countless students in registering to vote and apply for mail-in ballots. I feel a sense of pride knowing that I was making sure people's voices were heard in our national and local elections.*

*"Thank you for the scholarship and the resources to complete my Day Scholar project. I believe that I'm making a real difference in my community."*



## Richard Gray

Houston High School

**Major: Undecided**

### Fall 2024 Courses

Introductory Physics for the Life Sciences I  
Introductory Physics Lab I  
Neuroscience  
Religious Encounters  
Biology I  
Biology I Lab

# CLARENCE DAY SCHOLARS CLASS OF 2027



**Hana Jaber**  
 Collierville High School  
**Major: Undecided**  
**Fall 2024 Courses**  
 Search: Values in History and Religion  
 Biology I  
 Biology I Lab  
 Educational Psychology  
 Psychology Research Methods and Statistics

**What have been some highlights of your involvement with the Day Scholars Program?**

*The highlight of the Day Scholars Program for me was getting to be a part of the recruitment of incoming scholars. I love seeing the potential of prospective students and the scholars of Memphis!*

*“Thank you for the opportunity to make an impact on the Memphis community and for the educational opportunities this scholarship has provided me!”*



**Olivia McCarver**  
 Hutchison School  
**Major: Undecided**  
**Fall 2024 Courses**  
 Malcolm, Martin, Baldwin and America  
 Intermediate French  
 Understanding Musicianship  
 Voice  
 Rhodes Orchestra  
 Rhodes Singers

**Who is your favorite faculty member, and why?**

*My favorite faculty member is Dr. Hartner in the music department. She truly wants each student to understand the material she teaches in class and takes an interest in each student’s academic and holistic well-being.*

*“Thank you, Day Foundation, for giving us the opportunity to not only pursue an education at Rhodes but the opportunity and resources to better the Memphis and Rhodes communities long-term.”*



**Victor Lopez Perez**  
 Germantown High School  
**Major: Undecided**  
**Fall 2024 Courses**  
 Foundations of Chemistry  
 Foundations of Chemistry Lab  
 Research in Biology  
 Philosophy, Politics and Economics  
 Data Structures and Algorithms  
 Introductory Physics for the Life Sciences I  
 Introductory Physics Lab I

**What have been some highlights of your involvement with the Day Scholars Program?**

*One that stands out was volunteering to make meals for those in need. It was a truly rewarding experience, as we came together to work as a team. Some gathered ingredients, others cooked, and a few took charge of delivery. It was a wonderful way to fulfill a need.*

*“I am deeply grateful for this prestigious scholarship which has made my education at Rhodes possible. As a first-generation student, I am especially thankful for the generous support that has allowed me to pursue my educational aspirations and that has eased the financial burden on my family. I plan to one day become an optometrist and help people, just as the Day Foundation has helped me.”*



# CLARENCE DAY SCHOLARS CLASS OF 2026



**Auden Brummer**  
 Christian Brothers High School  
**Major: Religious Studies**  
**Fall 2024 Courses**  
 Methods and Theories of the Study of Religion  
 Foundations of Chemistry  
 Foundations of Chemistry Lab  
 Research Methods in International Studies  
 Government and Politics of Latin America

**What has been your favorite class?**

*Religion and Environmental Crisis helped change my understanding of humankind’s relationship to the environment.*

*“I deeply appreciate the opportunity this scholarship has afforded me. It has allowed me to pursue my academics while staying in Memphis and working to better my community.”*



**Asher Crouch**  
 Crosstown High School  
**Major: Media Studies**  
**Fall 2024 Courses**  
 Rhetorical Criticism  
 Literature and Music  
 Adolescent Development  
 Music and Community in Memphis

**What has been your favorite class?**

*Sculpture 101 was my favorite class. It was the most hands-on class I have had the opportunity to take, and it taught me many new and useful skills.*

*“Thank you, Day Foundation. This scholarship provided me with the opportunity to attend an amazing school, one that I wouldn’t have been able to afford otherwise.”*



**Jasmine “Leo” Jeffries**  
 Ridgeway High School  
**Major: Art and Art History**  
**Fall 2024 Courses**  
 Survey of African American Literature  
 Greek Art and Architecture  
 Advanced Digital Art  
 Museum/Gallery Internship

**What is the focus of your Day project?**

*I am planning a series of arts workshops for the Memphis community. The city has so much great art, but there is a barrier in accessing proper arts education. My plan is to offer four workshops during the 2025-2026 school year to the greater community. These will be free, but the teaching artists will be compensated for their work to promote respect for their time and talent.*

*“Thank you, Day Foundation, for your continued support. My entire college experience would not have been possible without this scholarship. I deeply appreciate your support and I look forward to scaling new heights with the wonderful foundation you have provided!”*



**Nonie Leopard**  
 Central High School  
**Major: Media Studies**  
**Fall 2024 Courses**  
 Introductory Seminar in History  
 Topics in Media Studies  
 Understanding Musicianship  
 Chamber Ensemble  
 Voice

**What has been your favorite class?**

*My favorite class, Black Mirror and Philosophy, was taught by my favorite faculty member, Dr. Tuvel.*

*“I cannot express how grateful I am for the Clarence Day scholarship. I simply would not have been able to attend Rhodes without it.”*

# CLARENCE DAY SCHOLARS CLASS OF 2026



## Penelope Link

St. Benedict at Auburndale

**Major: Art History**

### Fall 2024 Courses

Greek Art and Architecture  
Introduction to Urban Studies  
Urban Politics and Policy  
Community Development  
and Action  
Chamber Ensemble  
Voice

### What have been some highlights of your involvement with the Day Scholars Program?

*The highlight of the Day Scholar program has been entering Rhodes with a community of exceptional people who inspired me with their ideas and creativity the very first week that we spent on campus. Day Scholar orientation was such an impactful time for me and really set the tone for the rest of my time at Rhodes.*

*"I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and recognition. This program not only made it possible for me to attend Rhodes, but it has also instilled a confidence in me that has helped me navigate my academic pursuits."*



## Ismail Malik

Arlington High School

**Major: Computer Science**

### Fall 2024 Courses

Topics in Business  
Corporate Financial Management  
Intermediate Microeconomics  
Topics in Economics  
Public Economics  
Special Topics, English

### Who is your favorite faculty member?

*My favorite faculty member would probably be Professor Kaltner. Although he teaches classes not related to my major, I admire his compassion and understanding attitude toward all students.*

*"I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Day Foundation and Trustees for their generous support through the Clarence Day Scholarship. This scholarship is not only an investment in my education, but it also represents a belief in my potential to contribute to my community and pursue my academic and career aspirations. By alleviating financial pressures, the scholarship allows me to focus on my studies and actively participate in leadership opportunities on campus. I am inspired by your commitment to supporting students, and I hope to honor your generosity by striving for excellence and making a meaningful impact in the future. Thank you for believing in me and helping make my college experience possible."*



## Mariana Martinez

Memphis Rise Academy  
Charter School

**Major: Philosophy**

### Fall 2024 Courses

Greek Art and Architecture  
Ethics  
Critical Reasoning  
Intermediate Spanish

### What is the focus of your Day project?

*I plan to organize an event where I gather toys, clothes, and essentials such as diapers for infants and toddlers in the Hispanic community of Memphis.*

*"I'm really thankful to have this opportunity, and I hope I can make the Hispanic community of Memphis feel more cared for and appreciated."*



## Sandy Nguyen

White Station High School

**Major: Biomathematics**

### Fall 2024 Courses

Differential Equations  
Organic Chemistry II  
Organic Chemistry II Lab  
Introductory Physics for  
the Physical Sciences I  
Introductory Physics Lab I  
Pain, Suffering and Death  
Rhodes Orchestra

### What have been some highlights of your involvement with the Day Scholars Program?

*In partnership with Peace Lutheran Church, I have volunteered to provide food to those in need. This ongoing project is one of my favorites. I enjoy working with fellow Day Scholars to help feed the local community.*

*"I would like to thank the Day Foundation for supporting my education at Rhodes. With this support, I am able to conduct research at St. Jude's, volunteer at Church Health and Room in the Inn, and serve as secretary of Rhodes' Health Professions Society – all without worrying about the financial burdens associated with tuition. Your support has allowed me to embrace an array of opportunities."*



## Cyanne Tate

Collierville High School

**Major: Media Studies**

### Fall 2024 Courses

History of Religions  
Elementary Spanish  
Public Speaking  
Intermediate Digital Art  
Clarinet  
Rhodes Orchestra

### What has been your favorite class?

*My favorite class so far was Screenwriting. As someone who is more experienced in creative writing, it was fun to see another side of that and to learn how creative writing can transfer to screenwriting. I learned how to work on a team to plan, write, and visualize a TV episode. This class made me realize that screenwriting is something that I could actually pursue as a career.*

*"I have a huge appreciation for the Day Foundation. I've gained so many opportunities and friendships. I love that the idea behind the program is to improve the lives of people in Memphis by focusing on service. Without the Day Foundation, I would not be able to attend Rhodes. I'm glad that they saw I have a passion for my city."*



## Mohammad Taysir

Pleasant View School

**Major: International Studies**

### Fall 2024 Courses

Introduction to Economics  
Introduction to International  
Relations  
Model U.N.  
Weapons of Mass Deception  
Topics in Music

### What is the focus of your Day project?

*Though I am still deciding, I think I would like to fundraise for 901 Ummah, a nonprofit serving Muslim youth by providing mentorship, cultivating talent, and offering various educational programs and opportunities to gather.*

*"I really appreciate this opportunity, and I recommend other Muslim kids apply for the Day Scholarship!"*





# CLARENCE DAY SCHOLARS CLASS OF 2025



**Michael Bell**  
 Central High School  
**Major: Art**  
**Fall 2024 Courses**  
 Topics in Chemistry, with Lab  
 Senior Seminar, Art  
 Creative Publishing:  
 Southwestern Review  
 Intermediate Fiction Workshop I

**What has been your favorite class?**

*My painting courses, specifically Intermediate Painting. I did not intend to study painting in college, but I discovered a love for it and enjoy the challenge. It has made me a better artist and student. Professor Raina Belleau's was the first painting course I took, and through it, I discovered my love for art.*

*"I am honored to have received this scholarship and to have been a part of this program. The support that has been provided to me throughout my college career has been tremendous and impactful. I am forever grateful for the opportunity and the person I have become because of this experience."*



**Vaidehi Bhatara**  
 Houston High School  
**Major: Neuroscience**  
**Fall 2024 Courses**  
 Computational Protein Design  
 and Engineering  
 Molecular Biology  
 Molecular Biology Lab  
 Special Topics, English  
 History of Religions  
 Health Professions Internship

**What has been your favorite class?**

*Neuroscience of Sleep with Dr. Laura Shanahan was my favorite class. As one of my first upper-level neuroscience classes, it was fascinating to learn in-depth how our sleep behavior relates to our physical and mental health. I also appreciate the effort Dr. Shanahan made to make me an engaging presenter and to teach me how to read scientific material efficiently.*

*"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to engage with the Memphis community while at Rhodes. I have been able to develop myself socially, professionally, and as a citizen of Memphis through the Day Scholar program. I am truly grateful, and I hope it will reflect in my future as a citizen of Shelby County."*



**Sophia Guinocor**  
 St. Benedict at Auburndale  
**Major: Chemistry**  
**Fall 2024 Courses**  
 Physical Chemistry  
 Physical Chemistry II Lab  
 Explorations in Social Theory  
 Special Topics, English  
 Literature and Music  
 Computational Protein Design  
 and Engineering

**What is the focus of your Day project?**

*I plan to collaborate with The Metamorphosis Project, an organization I have volunteered with often. The Metamorphosis Project dedicates itself to addressing the social issues and needs of the homeless and hungry in Memphis. Their mission involves hosting events that provide food, social interaction, clothing, and "blessing bags" to those in need.*

*"The Clarence Day scholarship was one of the main factors that encouraged me to attend Rhodes. Memphis has been my home all my life, and it has given me many opportunities. I am proud to give back to the city, even if only in a small way. Thank you, Day Foundation, for supporting me during my time at Rhodes."*



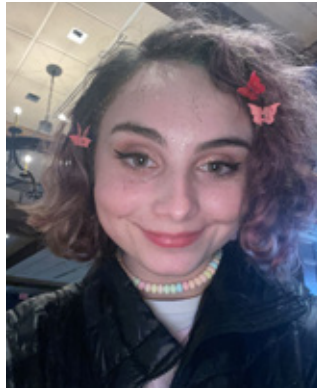
**Jules Hall**  
 Faith Heritage Christian  
 Academy  
**Major: Computer Science**  
**Fall 2024 Courses**  
 Studying Abroad

**What have been some highlights of your involvement with the Day Scholars Program?**

*The Day Scholar program has helped me feel a deeper connection to both my campus community and the greater Memphis area. It's challenged me to think deeply about the relationship Rhodes has with the city and the various ways we shape one another. It sheds light on the privilege Rhodes has as an institution and the ways that we can wield that privilege to help the city that we call home.*

*"Without this generous scholarship, I would not have been able to attend Rhodes and to receive the exemplary education that the Day Foundation has made possible. I hope that the foundation continues to make Rhodes a viable option for students like me, who wish to challenge themselves academically but who are in need of aid to do so."*

# CLARENCE DAY SCHOLARS CLASS OF 2025



**Callie Hollis**  
 St. George's High School  
**Major: History**  
**Fall 2024 Courses**  
 Senior Seminar, History  
 Senior Seminar, Media Studies  
 History of Religions



**Colin McCown**  
 Memphis University School  
**Major: History**  
**Fall 2024 Courses**  
 Senior Seminar, History  
 Directed Research, History  
 Tutorial: One to One Writing  
 Agriculture, Society and  
 the Environment



**Parth Sinojia**  
 Houston High School  
**Major: Neuroscience**  
**Fall 2024 Courses**  
 Senior Seminar, Neuroscience  
 Cognitive Neuroscience  
 Cognitive Neuroscience Lab  
 Object-Oriented Programming  
 Discrete Mathematical Modeling  
 with Biological Applications  
 Research in Mathematics



**Hoang-Vy Tran**  
 Arlington High School  
**Major: Neuroscience**  
**Fall 2024 Courses**  
 Senior Seminar, Neuroscience  
 Ecology  
 Ecology Lab  
 Cognitive Neuroscience  
 Cognitive Neuroscience Lab  
 Literature and Music

## What is the focus of your Day project?

*I worked at the Museum of Science and History, where I combined my love of history with service. I researched the most important legal cases and historical figures in Memphis history and helped to curate the Memphis Bar Association's 150th anniversary exhibit. I also took many of the photographs featured in the exhibit, which was open to the public from August through November of 2024.*

*"The Clarence Day Scholarship helped me solidify my goal of becoming a lawyer in order to ultimately serve others. The program continually reminded me of my love for and dedication to the Memphis community, leading me to leadership roles as my sorority's Community Service Director and Design Editor for The Bridge Street Newspaper non-profit. I am forever grateful."*

## What is the focus of your Day project?

*For the past year and a half, I have conducted research on South Memphis for iRaST (the Institute for Racial and Social Transformation). I worked under Professor Saxe and helped him prepare materials for his History of Memphis class. I also took the class and acted as a quasi-TA. In addition, I have worked with MoSH on a South Memphis exhibit, and I continue to work with Professor McKinney conducting research on South Memphis and assisting the iRaST program.*

*"I would like to thank the Day Foundation for their continued support of the program. When I was applying to colleges, I did not intend to stay in Memphis, but that changed when I learned about the Day Scholars program. I have never once regretted my decision to stay here, thanks to the many amazing opportunities this school and city have provided me."*

## What has been your favorite class?

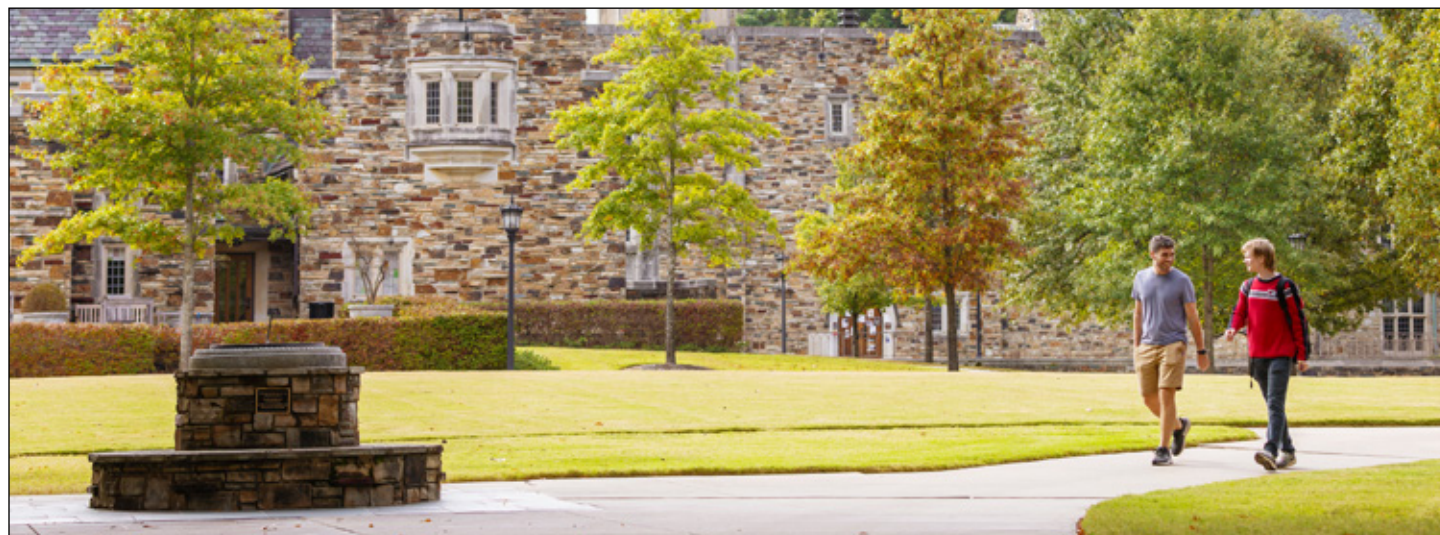
*My favorite class was Mass Incarceration. It's a course that forces you to work against your preconceived notions about the legal system. It challenges you to step into uncomfortable situations, as you help teach Rhodes humanities courses at a women's state prison. You really learn how to advocate for education in prisons, as well as learn more about your surrounding community.*

*"Thank you for the funding and for the opportunities this scholarship has afforded me. This experience has provided me with skills and knowledge that will help me immensely in the next stages of my life and career."*

## Who is your favorite faculty member?

*Dr. Klatzkin is my favorite faculty member. She has been a rock for me here at Rhodes. Everyone needs a professor like Dr. Klatzkin. She made me want to put in the hard work it takes to learn. She is an amazing teacher, mentor, and friend.*

*"This scholarship is the reason I am able to attend Rhodes, and I have learned so much about the Memphis community through giving back to the wonderful city that I call home. Thank you so much for this amazing opportunity."*





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